

Vermont in compliance with the 1980 Low-level Radioactive Waste Policy Act which Congress passed in an effort to establish a uniform Federal policy on nuclear waste disposal. While the Federal Government retained responsibility over high-level waste disposal, this act placed the onus on the States to dispose properly of low-level radioactive waste generated within their borders.

To promote and encourage the fulfillment of this obligation by all States, Congress authorized the States to enter into compacts with other States to share waste disposal facilities. It is pursuant to this obligation and mandate that the Texas-Maine-Vermont Compact was negotiated and approved by the legislatures of Texas and Vermont and through a public referendum in the State of Maine. The compact was subsequently signed by the governors of all three states.

Currently, nine interstate compacts involving 41 States are operating through Congressional consent. I have received a letter signed by the Governors of Texas, Maine, and Vermont urging Congress to pass this compact as passed by the States. This compact would bring these states into compliance with federal law. The hard work for drafting a compact that all three states would ratify and that would meet with congressional approval has been completed for some time. The States have carefully crafted a compact that will serve their low-level waste disposal needs in a responsible and lawful manner.

The States have done their part and have been patiently waiting for congressional consent before moving forward with plans to construct the waste disposal facility. It is now time for this body to do its part in assuring that this compact will be passed swiftly without further delay. I therefore support this important piece of legislation, and encourage my colleague to do the same.

Ms. SNOWE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I yield back the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 40 minutes equally divided and reserved for tomorrow. Both sides are yielding back the balance of the time for tonight?

Ms. SNOWE. That's correct.

Mr. WELLSTONE. That's correct.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, this morning I missed the vote on the Fis-

cal Year 1999 Military Construction Appropriations Conference Report, which this body approved by a wide margin. I missed the vote due to a long airline delay—a delay especially vexing to me because I had scheduled my departure from South Carolina to arrive here in plenty of time to vote on this legislation. Had I been here, I would have been proud to cast an "aye" vote for this bill.

As a combat veteran, I'm convinced a strong and vigorous military is vital to our nation's security and interests. The Military Construction Appropriations Conference Report is crucial to strengthening our armed forces, and it is tremendously important to the people of South Carolina.

I was proud to work with fellow Appropriations Committee members to secure additional money for projects at the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, McEntire Air National Guard Station, Spartanburg Air National Guard Center, Beaufort Marine Air Corps Station, and Charleston Air Force Base. In addition to strengthening our military, these projects will help the brave men and women in uniform who serve on these bases and their dependents.

I was proud to help make the 1999 Military Construction Appropriations Conference Report a reality, and I'm pleased to see it approved today by the Senate.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, with regards to this morning's vote on the military construction appropriations conference report, vote number 253, I would like the RECORD to show that had I been present I would have voted aye. This bill provides important funding for military construction projects across the country, including a number of projects at military installations in Georgia.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill, previously received from the House of Representatives for the concurrence of the Senate, was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3696. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 316 North 26th Street in Billings, Montana, as the "James F. Battin United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

H.R. 624: A bill to amend the Armored Car Industry Reciprocity Act of 1993 to clarify certain requirements and to improve the flow of interstate commerce (Rept. No. 105-297).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 40 and H.J. Res. 54) proposing an

amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States (Rept. No. 105-298).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2429. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2430. A bill to provide a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. HELMS, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. FORD):

S.J. Res. 55. A joint resolution requesting the President to advance the late Rear Admiral Husband E. Kimmel on the retired list of the Navy to the highest grade held as Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, during World War II, and to advance the late Major General Walter C. Short on the retired list of the Army to the highest grade held as Commanding General, Hawaiian Department, during World War II, as was done under the Officer Personnel Act of 1947 for all other senior officers who served in positions of command during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. Res. 268. A resolution congratulating the Toms River East American Little League team of Toms River, New Jersey, for winning the Little League World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 269. A resolution to authorize production of Senate documents and representation by Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Rose Larker, et al. v. Kevin A. Carias-Herrera, et al; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2429. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

NATIONAL CEMETERY LEGISLATION

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, today I am pleased to offer an important